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DE RUEHKL #0976 3410835  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 070835Z DEC 09  
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3550  
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 2878  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0690

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 000976

SIPDIS  
SENSITIVE

FOR EAP/MTS

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [BM](#) [MY](#)  
SUBJECT: MALAYSIA LAUDS U.S. ENGAGEMENT OF BURMA BUT OFFERS  
NO CONCRETE ACTION

REF: STATE 121789 -- PRESSING FOR DIALOGUE IN BURMA

11. (SBU) Polcouns and Poloff met with recently appointed MFA Under Secretary Tan Yong Thai, who is responsible for covering Burma, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, for a courtesy call and to discuss reftel demarche points on December 7, 12009. U/S Tan praised U.S. efforts to engage Burma and was critical of Burma's lack of reciprocation, noting "the Myanmar side needs to do its part." He opined that "engagement is the only way forward, because it gives them confidence to change their way," but added "this will take time." Tan conceded he could not specify how much time it would take, but added that Burma was "heading in the right direction."

12. (SBU) Regarding the 2010 elections, Tan said "We'd like to see all sides participate in the 2010 election," adding that "all other ASEAN countries feel this way," but stopped short of affirming that the GOM would push Burma to allow Aung San Suu Kyi to meet with the NLD Central Executive Committee. He added that the Burmese government's "credibility was at stake" with their conduct in the upcoming elections. U/S Tan reminded us that his government's position is for the immediate release of ASSK, and that Malaysia along with other ASEAN members were "always keeping up the pressure."  
KEITH